

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PE

SUBJECT: REQUEST RE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC)

REF: LIMA 1412

1. BACKGROUND. INTERNATIONAL WHALING CONVENTION FOR THE REGULATION OF WHALING WAS SIGNED AT WASHINGTON IN 1946 AND ENTERED INTO FORCE NOVEMBER 10, 1948. GOP WAS ORIGINAL SIGNER BUT HAS NEVER RATIFIED CONVENTION.

2. THE 1946 CONVENTION HAS AS ITS OBJECTIVE THE CONSERVATION OF WORLD WHALE STOCKS, THUS MAKING POSSIBLE THE ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHALING INDUSTRY. THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE CONVENTION IS COMPOSED OF A COMMISSIONER FROM EACH CONTRACTING GOVERNMENT AND HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF REVIEWING THE CONDITION OF ALL WHALE STOCKS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO MAINTAIN THE STOCKS AT ACCEPTABLE LEVELS. REVIEW TAKES PLACE ANNUALLY AND ACTIONS ARE LARGELY BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.

3. IN THE PAST THE IWC HAS HAD FEW PLANS AND PROGRAMS OF ITS
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OWN. HOWEVER, IN RECENT YEARS, MEMBER GOVERNMENTS HAVE

DECIDED TO STRENGTHEN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE IWC. IT IS EXPECTED THAT A SENIOR SCIENTIST WILL BE APPOINTED SECRETARY THIS MONTH OR NEXT AND WILL BEGIN HIS FUNCTIONS SUCH AS COORDINATING AND ENCOURAGING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

4. MEMBER COUNTRIES AT PRESENT ARE ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, CANADA, DENMARK, FRANCE, ICELAND, JAPAN, MEXICO, NORWAY, PANAMA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE SOVIET UNION, SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES.

5. THE IWC IS A MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.

6. IWC DOES NOT OFFER TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE ITSELF, HOWEVER, COOPERATIVE SCIENTIFIC EFFORTS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS INCLUDE POSSIBILITIES FOR PARTICIPATION AND THEREBY TRANSFER OF TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND METHODOLOGY. EXAMPLE IS SCIENTIFIC WHALE RESEARCH CRUISE OF R/V HERO UNDER INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH HOSTED BY US WHICH INCLUDED SCIENTISTS FROM ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, JAPAN, AND CANADA AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES.

7. TWO REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP ARE : (A) ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF 1500-2000 BRITISH POUNDS DOLS 3-4000(US), AND (B) PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME SUBJECT TO OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS OUTSIDE IWC WITH OTHER SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE LAND STATION WHALING NATIONS, I.E., AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, AND SOUTH AFRICA. MOST LIKELY THIS WOULD INVOLVE PROVIDING AN INDIVIDUAL TO SERVE AS OBSERVER AT LAND STATION OF ONE OF THE OTHER SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE NATIONS. FYI. IT CAN PROBABLY BE ARGUED TO WHAT EXTENT THIS IS A FORMAL, LEGAL REQUIREMENT SINCE THE DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS OUTSIDE IWC. ALSO, SOUTH AFRICA IS EXPECTED TO CEASE WHALING OPERATIONS.

8. QUOTAS ARE NOT ASSIGNED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES BY THE IWC. THE IWC SETS QUOTAS BY SPECIES BY OCEAN AREAS. THE MEMBER NATIONS WHALING IN EACH AREA THEN DIVIDE THE QUOTAS AMONG THEMSELVES BY FORMAL AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATED USUALLY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE IWC ANNUAL MEETING. PRESENT IWC QUOTAS IN WATERS NEAR PERU ARE:
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AREA QWP W TO 60 W DEGREES LONGITUDE FROM EQUATOR TO ANTARCTICA
FIN WHALES - ALLOWED TAKE OF WWP SOUTH OF 40 S DEGREES LATITUDE
IS DIVIDED BETWEEN USSR AND JAPAN. NO LIMIT SET NORTH OF 40
S DEGREES LATITUDE. (PERU TOOK 5 FIN WHALES IN 1974)

SEI AND BRYDE'S - ALLOWED TAKE OF 198 SEI AND BRYDE'S WHALES
IN 1974)

AREA 1002 TO 20 E DEGREES LONGITUDE FROM EQUATOR TO ANTARCTICA

SPERM WHALES - 2,024 MALE SPERM WHALES AND 1,992 FEMALE
SPERM WHALES DIVIDED AMONG JAPAN, THE SOVIET UNION AND BRAZIL.

(PERU TOOK 1,286 SPERM WHALES IN 1974)

9. STOCKS OF WHALES HAD BEEN RAPIDLY DECLINING. THEREFORE, IWC HAS ADOPTED REDUCED QUOTAS AND OTHER PROTECTIONS ARE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN STOCKS AT ACCEPTABLE LEVELS AND ENABLE REDUCED STOCKS TO REBUILD. SUCH ACTION, OF COURSE, IS BENEFICIAL TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS PERU SINCE IT PREVENTS LARGE WHALING NATIONS SUCH AS JAPAN AND SOVIET UNION FROM DESTROYING WHALE POPULATIONS AND ALLOWS STOCKS TO REBUILD TO MEET FUTURE NEEDS OF A COUNTRY LIKE PERU.

10. IWC CURRENTLY CONSIDERING SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS IN IWC CONVENTION. CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTIARIES EXPECTED TO BE CONVENED ONCE GENERAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AT LOS ANGELES CONFERENCE.

11. REQUEST EMBASSY STRONGLY ENCOURAGE PERUVIAN MEMBERSHIP IN IWC FOR REPAIR. IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE IF ACTION COULD TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO NEXT ANNUAL MEETING OF IWC, JUNE 21-25, 1976, IN LONDON. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE IS HOLDING SPECIAL MEETING RE SPERM WHALES IN LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA, MARCH 15-25, 1976. ANNUAL MEETING OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WILL BE JUNE 10-19, 1976, IN LONDON. KISSINGER

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